

# ACTIONS & PRIORITIES

**DELTA FLOOD PROTECTION ACT**

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EIGHT WESTERN DELTA ISLANDS



DIVISION OF PLANNING  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
MARCH 1990

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## DREDGING

Another continuing project involves the use of imported dredged material for levee rehabilitation. The Corps of Engineers estimates that between 1990 and 1995 they will need to relocate 19 million cubic yards of dredged material from ship channels to handle the new larger container ships. This total is in addition to the approximately 40 million cubic yards of material produced by maintenance dredging projects over the next 5 years. Existing in-Bay relocation sites are near capacity, and the environmental problems associated with in-Bay and ocean disposal have necessitated studies identifying new relocation sites.

Several organizations list the Delta as a possible site for dredged material relocation. The Corps of Engineers' Long Term Management Strategy for dredged material has produced a scoping report citing the Delta as a potential relocation site. A reconnaissance study is under way by the Corps and their consultants to identify relocation options within the Delta. The objective of their studies is to develop a long-term management plan for the relocation of dredged material through 2015.

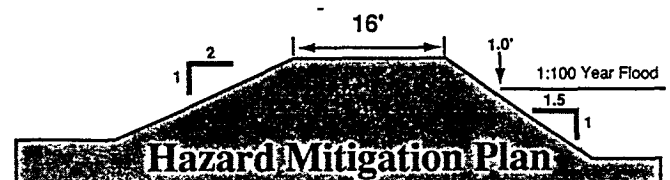
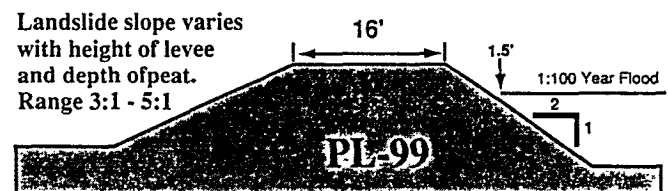
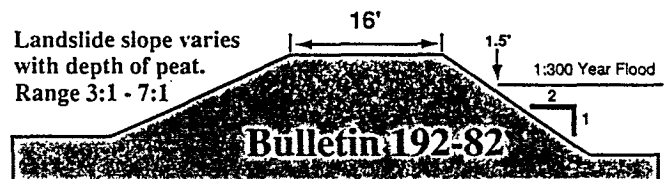
The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission is also involved in studying alternatives to in-Bay disposal of dredged material. In December 1989, BCDC directed its staff to prepare proposed legislation requiring the preparation of a Bay dredging plan. The plan would address regional dredging needs, potential relocation sites, and pollutant testing criteria.

Through upland relocation, dredged material can be used as a resource. It can be used to create new wetlands and

strengthen levees protecting existing habitat. As local sources of fill material are depleted, new economical sources must be located. The Department, in coordination with the Corps, the Port of Oakland and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, is investigating a possible pilot project to determine the viability of relocating Bay material in the Delta. A program such as this could greatly reduce costs to local reclamation districts. The Department recognizes, however, that imported fill material must be carefully analyzed to prevent degradation of Delta water quality. The Department recommends expending \$30,000 a year to help coordinate these actions.

## LEVEE STANDARDS

### Agricultural



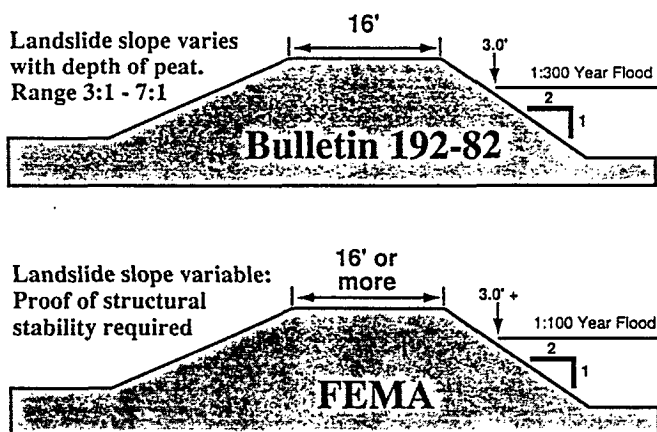
## LEVEE UPGRADE

Recently, the Delta Levees Subventions program has been oversubscribed. Claims by the islands and tracts participating in the program are projected to exceed the annual \$6 million allocation for some time. To ensure flood protection is not delayed by competition for Subventions funding, eligible levee rehabilitation and maintenance for the eight western Delta islands not reimbursed under the Subventions program will be funded through the Special Flood Control Projects. Expenditures for fiscal year 1989-90 are expected to be approximately two million dollars. About one million dollars per year will be allocated for this program thereafter.

Senate Bill 34 states that plans for maintenance and improvement of non-project

levees be "compatible with the plan for improvement of the Delta levees as set forth in Bulletin 192-82 of the Department." As shown in the figure below, the Department's standards are more restrictive than the Corps' PL-99 standards. In addition, Bulletin 192-82 distinguishes between urban and agricultural areas, requiring greater protection for the populated areas. Achieving Bulletin 192-82 standards will allow local reclamation districts to seek Corps certification for PL-99 funds. In 1980, the Corps stopped all post-disaster rehabilitation assistance in the Delta until levees could provide dependable and adequate protection from flooding. From 1980-86, the Corps had no levee standard for the Delta. In 1987, they developed a special PL-99 standard for the Delta.

### Urban



*Since 1980, levee failures have occurred on 17 islands and tracts. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency established flood hazard mitigation plan levee standards. Reclamation Districts must show progress in improving their levee system and ultimately meet HMP standards by 1991 to be eligible for future federal disaster assistance in the Delta.*

*The State has been active in the Delta since 1973 when it began its Delta Levees Subventions Program. The Department established both urban and agricultural standards in Bulletin 192-82 as a goal.*

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